

10/018361

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Graham PERRET et al.

: Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

: Docket No. 2001_1855A

Filed December 19, 2001

: THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEPOSIT NOT FORWARDED
WITH THIS PAPER TO THE FILING OF THE
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975. TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

DEEP WATER TLP TETHER SYSTEM
[Corresponding to PCT/NO00/00215
Filed June 22, 2000]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend
the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the original specification and abstract as filed in the
International Stage with the enclosed substitute specification and abstract.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer recited thereof.

Kindly add the following new claims:

Sub D 13.(NEW) Tether system for tension leg platforms (4), with tethers (6) having
upper and lower pipe sections (1, 2), characterized by the tethers (6) having a stepped
reduction of the diameter towards the seabed such that the upper section(s) (1) have